

## Teen Driver Task Force Meeting – Meeting Minutes

7/19/17

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Public Safety Building – DMV

OHS Conference Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dover, DE

### Attendees:

Jana Simpler, Office of Highway Safety

Sarah Cattie, Office of Highway Safety

Kami Beers, DMV

Michael Wagner, DOE – Driver Education

Lt. Tracy Condon, DSP

Shannon Timmons, DOE – Driver Education (DDSEA)

Anthony Kwoka, DOE – Driver Education

Pete Booker - SmartDrive

Sarah Cattie thanked everyone for their contributions for the 2017 Annual Report to the General Assembly. The report was submitted to the GA in advance of the June 30 deadline.

Sarah Cattie discussed a few items that were discussed at the March meeting and the status:

- The GDL-Parent Orientation Program needs updates. Sarah will be focusing on this after October because the funds that were allocated for the project were needed for another OHS program. New funds will not be available until after October for FY 18.
- Comments from the Task Force: MW - contact from Idaho reviewed it and had positive comments, ST - parents have given great feedback – they enjoy the program and really get a lot out of it.
- **ACTION ITEM** – Shannon requested updated numbers of parents who have completed the GDL POP. Sarah will email the task force the information.
- **ACTION ITEM** – Michael requested the link of the GDL POP to put on the DOE website. Sarah will email the link.
- Another item from the March agenda was meeting with the Insurance Commissioner to discuss a discount for parents to get them engaged in completing GDL POP and completing the 50 hour driving log. Sarah did not move forward with this because of its complexity and time constraints, so it's time to revisit this and create a path forward.
- Comments from the Task Force: MW – there are four issues to discuss – increase the discount on insurance, get the parents to complete the 50 hour driving log, Driver's Education and taking a 6 hour Defensive Driving course. Possibly the way to qualify for the discount is to turn in the 50 hour driving log. AK – has an open invite to meet with the Insurance Commissioner to discuss this.
- **ACTION ITEM** – Sarah will set up a small working group to handle this project. The group will include Sarah, Kami, Mike and Anthony.

### **Individual Member Updates:**

*Kami Beers* – The DMV has been checking their website links to make sure that all of the Teen Driver information matches to the DMV information – licensing rules, etc. There are a few updates to the driver manual that the teachers will need to be aware of: caution for farm equipment and the DelDOT recommendation to do a “zipper merge” when a lane is closing because of construction. Data supports this change in driving. Kami will be sure to get the updates to DOE to include in their instruction.

*Jana Simpler* – National Teen Driver Week is 10/15 – 10/21. OHS is still supporting its High School speed program. However, the sports focus has switched to football, so it will start in September. OHS would like to do more with Teen Driver week – including getting a speaker into schools with a follow up at sporting events and creating a PSA for/by teens.

Comments – MW mentioned a run on Oct. 25 for middle schoolers at Browns Branch park. Also at DE Turf – Sept. 8 – 16 high schools participating in the Upstate/Downstate Soccer Challenge. There’s also several educational opportunities - August 7-11 – Current issues in Driver’s education and in October, and in-service day. During the teen driver week, there can be school announcements, links on websites, signs around the schools, etc.

Brainstorming from the entire task force for the PSA – Members have contacts with the following notable people - Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester, Aubrey Plaza (actress), Quinn McCoggin (actress), Eric Porter (teen involved in speed crash), Shannon Lord (teen involved in no-seatbelt crash), Eric Ayala (basketball player in Connecticut – from Wilmington and well-known) In addition, there is a DEIA student leadership conference in early August. That might be a good time to get PSA recordings. Sarah and Jana have a conference call scheduled with Alliance Sports Marketing on Thursday, July 20. Mike Wagner asked to be in on the call to help facilitate the schools’ needs.

*Lt. Tracy Condon* – She met with Pete Booker from SmartDrive – and is working to get Student Resource Officers involved with SmartDrive. Also, she will be working on a project proposal to OHS for an enforcement October 20-21, the “Drive to Save Lives.” She will be working with SmartDrive during National Teen Driver Safety Week to get trooper conducting seatbelt/cell phone checks.

*Anthony Kwoka* – He wants to get more SROs in the classrooms – this would be separate from the work the SROs do with SmartDrive. DOE is looking to partner with multiple agencies and he thinks this would be a good addition. This would require 1 day per marking period. The SRO/Officer could visit all Driver’s Education classes on the same day.

*Shannon Timmons* – She has had luck working an officer who is a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) to come in and talk about what DREs do and when a driver might encounter one. She would also like to get the SROs from the municipalities to come into the classroom more or get them a lesson plan that they could follow.

Comments – Tracy commented that the SROs should be able to work both with the Driver’s Education teachers and SmartDrive. Troopers need to meet certain Continuing Education Units (CEUs), so there might be a way to get some of them in the classroom to work with the students. Shannon mentioned that using local cases, local roadways, etc. would be helpful.

**ACTION ITEM** – Sarah will set up a working group to establish a curriculum and program for the DREs, SROs and any other officer who wants to present to the students. The group will include Sarah, Tracy, Shannon and Anthony.

*Michael Wagner* – He is working on getting corporate sponsors for the 2018 driving competition. AT&T and AAA are confirmed; also trying to speak with Walmart. A \$2,000 sponsorship will include a \$500 scholarship to a student. The sponsorship will also include a vendor space at the teacher in-service day. He will send the task force a copy of the brochure.

Comments – There was mention of including an insurance agency – Jana mentioned Janine O'Donnell from Lewes. OHS will need to check with NHTSA to get approval to be a sponsor as scholarship monies are not an allowable expense.

Additional Driver's Education information:

- Current issues will be discussed at an August in-service program.
- Looking to set up an in-service day in October as well.
- The Driver's Education competition in April was very successful. Gary Camp provided tours of the racetrack. There was a fan zone set up and they were able to give away tickets to the Nascar race.

*Pete Booker* – SmartDrive's "DWI" program will be a good additional program for the proposed SRO/DRE involvement in the classes as well. A few programs that SmartDrive has coming up:

- FFCLA
- Car Show July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Want to get SADD started up again in schools. It had prominence in Delaware but that ended 2007/2008.

Comments – Jana suggested reaching out to the national group. Mike will do some digging and make some calls. Maybe start in 10 schools and see how it goes.

The next Teen Driver Task Force Meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the OHS Conference Room. An invitation will follow via Outlook.